

comments have come from, and I think even some of the mail that I have gotten, some publications that I have seen in relation to this bill, have dealt with the misconception that this is going to be directed toward education in the classroom, education in the classroom at the elementary and secondary level. It deals with the training of teachers, an aspect of the curriculum that they are required to have prior to being sent out to teach our young people, so that they have as good an understanding of the different types of individuals, the different types of backgrounds, the different types of, yes, ethnic, racial, and religious types of backgrounds that they will encounter. Senator Withem spoke of the strictly white Anglo background that he taught in and the effects that injection of different types of religious beliefs, different types of racial groups into that, how they are treated. A teacher that is not trained to react to that, a teacher that does not have a background or an understanding of those ethnic groups could very well have an influence on these students that impacts their lives or their beliefs forever, and I think you clearly need to provide for training in this area for our teachers, that allows them an understanding, gives them the tools that they need to provide for the best education for those young people, and you start out allowing them to have the best education by making sure that your teacher is as well trained as possible. I mean if we are going to pay our teachers more, as we would in LB 89, I think that the least we can do is ask that they be trained in this area that is probably the most important area that a student ever carries with them beyond the halls of education, and that is the area and the issue of how they deal with others throughout their life. And I think that all LB 250 does, as it has been amended by the Education Committee amendments, is it allows for an understanding on the part of those teachers of every aspect of difference, I guess is one way to put it, that is out there or as best that they can be educated in that area, so that they have as good an understanding as they can before going into that classroom and dealing with some of these problems firsthand because it clearly is a problem in today's society. It has always been a problem, and it is going to continue to be a problem, but 250, LB 250, takes us I guess in the first step in the direction of getting at the problem when we deal with it at the level of educating our teachers so that they are fully prepared...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.